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TITLE: Quality Management in Sleep Medicine via Telemedicine:
Overseas Online Transfer of Polysomnograms via Internet

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MidTerm Overall Evaluation Report



PROPOSAL: 2000000083

TITLE: Quality Management in Sleep Medicine via Telemedicine: Overseas Online Transfer of Polysomnograms via Internet

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In summary, the goal of our project is to evaluate the transfer of polysomnographies via the Internet using the File Transfer Protocol (FTP), from the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC), Germany to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC), Washington, DC. WRAMC specialized staff will compare the results of scoring and interpretation of the sleep studies done at WRAMC with the results of the non specialized staff at the remote overseas center. A quality assurance assessment between the two reports will be made to identify the quality of those performed by the specialists versus those performed by those trained on the job.

The WRAMC Sleep Disorder Center uses an earlier version of the Sensormedics sleep evaluation software than does LRMC. Through working with the Sensormedics company, we have been able to procure at no cost, a one-time load of the software used at Landstuhl, Germany to conduct the study. The normal cost of this software upgrade is \$8,750.

An FTP Server has been set up at LRMC and test cases have been sent from LRMC to the server and have been downloaded at WRAMC where the studies have been reviewed, demonstrating the technical ability to get the studies to WRAMC.

The project protocol has been through the many approval steps and has been approved, with the authorized protocol stamp on the patient consent form. The LRMC Sleep Disorder Center has the completed packet of study information and is ready to start the project pending technical support from the local Information Management Office.

PI's Accomplishment Evaluation: : Project Accomplishments Match Proposal

PROBLEMS

The primary problem encountered was the extremely long delay in getting the protocol through the approval process. This process took approximately seven months. In that time, the required hardware and software was acquired and tested. However, due to recent increased security demands, additional information management support is required and is now pending.

An additional problem that has recently appeared is that the LRMC Sleep Disorder Center staff members also staff the Critical Care Unit. With increased demands in support of the Afghanistan mission, the available time to support this project has been limited and has effected the project. We do understand that live patient care has first priority and that there may be delays.

PI's Problem Area Evaluation: : Project Problem Area Evaluation

LIFE-CYCLE

This project continues to follow the initial proposed plan outlined in the project proposal and project protocol once the technical and personnel issues are taken care of.

PI's Life-Cycle Evaluation: : Project encountered no significant problems/issues

DELIVERABLES

Upon completion of this project a study will be released identifying the impact on Quality Assurance assessment. An abstract has been submitted to the American Telemedicine Association (ATA) for a poster presentation at the Annual ATA Conference held in June 2002.

PI's Deliverables Evaluation: : Deliverable is on schedule per Proposal

Expenditures

Element of Resource (EOR)	1ST Quarter Oct 1 - Dec 31	2nd Quarter Jan 1 - Mar 31
Travel 2100	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Shipping 2200	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rent & Communications 2200	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract for Services 2500	\$63,588.50	\$0.00
Supplies 2600	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment 3100	\$9,411.50	\$0.00

Financial Narrative:

Our goals have been met within the constraints of grant awarded.

PI's Financial Evaluation: : Deliverable is on schedule per Proposal

*** END OF REPORT ***